

Christian Education

Continuing the "American College Bulletin"

Vol. II

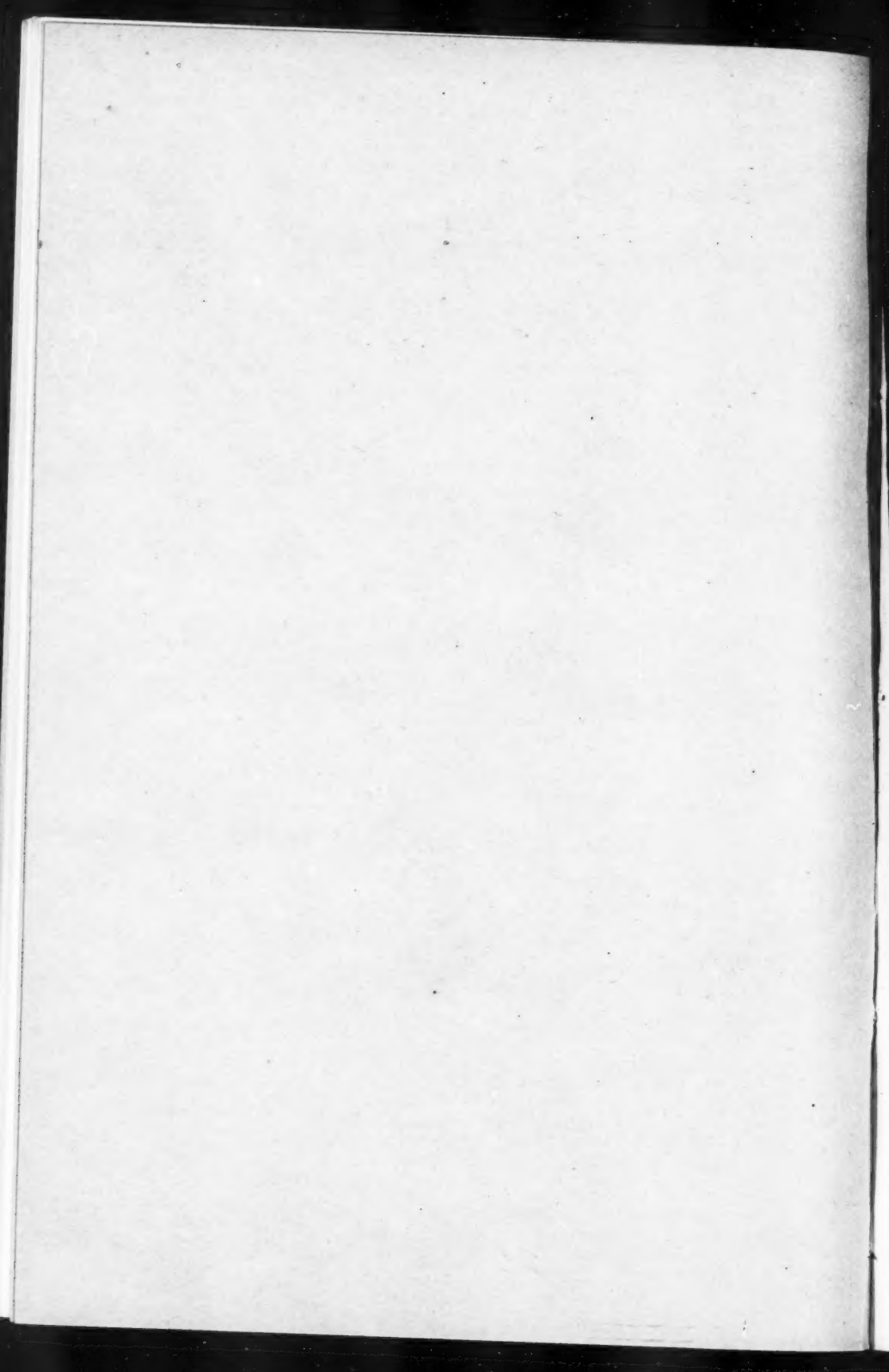
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THE COUNCIL OF CHURCH BOARDS OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

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Relation of Christian Education to the Interchurch World Movement

It is, of course, understood that in its origin and fundamental impulse the Interchurch World Movement is missionary. However, the term "missionary" particularly since Nov. 11th, 1918, must be used in a very broad sense; and it was because of the early recognition in the development of the plans of the Interchurch World Movement that the enlarged missionary enterprises of the Protestant Churches, both at home and abroad, could not be carried on except as men and women in increasing numbers were trained for this new service that the agencies of Christian education were admitted to the Movement.

The first important problem which arises in this field, is the problem of the educational survey. This phase of the Interchurch survey has been placed in the hands of the Council of Church Boards of Education in North America, and the Council's executive secretary, Dr. Robert L. Kelly, has been made the director of the work. As the official representative of Christian education he had already been made a member of the General Committee and of the Executive Committee of the Interchurch World Movement.

The educational survey of the Interchurch World Movement is to be articulated with the surveys of the home and foreign departments. It will have a particularly intimate relationship with the home survey since geographically the fields are practically identical. The technique of the three surveys, in so far as is possible, will be the same; for instance, one Map Making Department will be adequate for all the work in that special field. An effort will be made also to reduce duplication in the investigations and in other activities of the surveys so that each survey will lend results of value to the other two. As an illustration, the home survey will make a census of Protestant Church Membership in the United States, and from this census it will be possible for the

educational survey to secure data with reference to the potential student life of the nation.

The fundamental purpose of the educational survey, as indicated above, is to locate the agencies which are now equipped and functioning, or which may be put in position to function efficiently in the development of Christian leaders. This is undoubtedly the first time a nation-wide survey has been attempted in the educational field, the main emphasis of which has been to determine the adequacy of educational institutions as training camps for the Christian program.

The great war demonstrated, however, in most striking fashion, not only that the German Universities furnished the military leadership of that empire, but that the American Colleges, in a fashion really startling and in many quarters unexpected, proved themselves to be the formative centers of American leadership. That the leaders of the churches have been coming from the colleges of the country is a fact well known to all students of our religious life, and it is certain that not only the agencies which have been sending forth these leaders will have greater demands made upon them now, but that new agencies must be equipped for this most important service. As an illustration, the Protestant Churches of this country cannot adequately meet their new tasks unless the present machinery and plans of the churches in the great tax supported institutions are largely augmented and perfected.

One of the earliest questions which has arisen in connection with this survey, and certainly one of the most persistent, is as to what agencies are to be included in the survey and the financial campaign for which the survey is an immediate preparation. This is a question which certainly cannot be answered now, but in preparation for the answer to it, the Executive Committee of the Interchurch World Movement has announced certain general requirements in compliance with which agencies may be included in the financial campaign. These general requirements which follow here were agreed to by a unanimous vote at the Educational Section of the Cleveland conference, at which there was present a large representation from the Boards of Education and the Colleges and Universities.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Agencies will be included in the Movement as they demonstrate through the results of the survey that their organization, instruction and spirit are such as to insure the training of leaders for Christian service.

2. Agencies will be included in the Movement as they demonstrate through the result of the survey that they have a field and constituency.

3. The definition of the "Efficient College" made by the Association of American Colleges will be recognized as the present statement of educational standards, to which standards recognized colleges should immediately conform or be brought as speedily as possible.

4. Theological schools may be recognized which are shown to be distinctly contributing to the Movement and to maintain such educational standards as are approved by the Council of Church Boards of Education.

5. Junior Colleges, Secondary Schools and Training Schools may be recognized which are shown to be distinctly contributing to the Movement and to maintain such educational standards as are approved by the Council of Church Boards of Education.

6. Increased provision should be made through the Boards of Education for continuing and developing the work of training the students in tax-supported institutions for Christian life and leadership.

7. Endowments as well as current expenses for the Boards of Education and the institutions may be included in the financial campaign upon the recommendation of the several denominations, the amounts of the endowments to be secured by progressive steps, and to be determined in general as colleges conform to the several classes designated in the "Efficient College."

In the light of the above general requirements the several denominations participating, acting through their Boards of Education, will make recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Interchurch World Movement, both as to agencies and amounts. All of the committees and boards at work on this problem will make their recommendations on the basis of the results of the survey, when those results are available, and will keep in mind the general principle that special interests must be considered as parts of the larger programs of the

several denominations and of the entire Interchurch World Movement.

The Interchurch Executive Committee has already announced that, in so far as possible, plans already projected by the several participating denominations for financial campaigns will be related if desired to the general financial campaign of the Interchurch World Movement. It is undoubtedly true that many complicated adjustments will be necessary, but it is equally certain that with such a spirit of co-operation as is already manifest, these adjustments can be made.

It is evident that the preliminary survey must have a wide scope. The special task of equipping agencies for the training of Christian leaders must be considered in the light of the broader activities of American education. In its preliminary stages, therefore, the survey will take into consideration, in so far as is practicable, the entire American field. An effort will be made to tabulate and classify existing facts, many of which have already been secured through the partial surveys of the Council of Church Boards of Education and of the several Boards which make up this Council. In addition to this type of material, however, the results of the surveys of such agencies as the United States Bureau of Education, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the General Educational Board, the Sage Foundation, and other standardizing agencies, will be collaborated.

B. Warren Brown, the survey secretary of the Council of Church Boards of Education, has undertaken the task of canvassing this field, getting the facts together and classifying them in such a fashion that they will be readily available for use as the forward steps are taken in the course of the survey. Mr. Brown has indicated to the secretaries of the Council of Church Boards of Education certain lines in conformity with which the data now in their respective offices will be tabulated with a view to their classification and co-ordination at the Chicago office of the Council of Church Boards of Education. This very extensive preliminary step in the educational survey is being carried on with all of the dispatch possible.

Dr. Richard C. Hughes of the Presbyterian General Board of Education, who for many years has had the general

oversight for that Board of Christian work in tax-supported institutions, has accepted the task of making the survey of that type of educational agencies. He is now preparing the necessary questionnaires in co-operation with the other survey men in the educational department, including the secretaries of the various Boards of Education which have carried on important activities in this field. The field of the tax-supported institutions is all the more promising because of the very interesting developments which have occurred at certain University centers since the revision of the plans of the "Cleveland Conference"—including the activities of the Boards of the Council of Church Boards of Education, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and the student workers in University centers—which were initiated at the annual meeting of the Council of Church Boards of Education in Chicago in January, 1919.

As a third indication of progress it may be reported that there have been sent out from the Chicago office to all the colleges of the United States, with the exception of those of one denomination whose Board of Education has at hand all data now required, copies of the annual statistical report, which had been elaborated some years ago through the agency of the Council of Church Boards of Education, acting with representatives of the Association of the American Colleges. This statistical report has already received the general approval of the Boards of Education and of the leading colleges of the country, and it is certainly fortunate that the Council of Church Boards had at hand so significant a method of investigating certain phases of college administration and life. Because of this fact much time has been saved in getting the Interchurch educational survey under way. This statistical report is being used in making a preliminary investigation of the organization, educational standards, financial status and management, and social and religious life of the American colleges.

As these reports come in it will be possible to proceed at once in the tabulation of the results and the tentative classification of colleges in the light of the several requirements of the "Efficient College," which, as is indicated in No. 7 above of the general requirements, has been made the basis

for determining the educational status of institutions. In this connection it should be said that Dr. Calvin H. French, who, for the three years during which the definition of the "Efficient College" was being formulated by the Association of American Colleges was chairman of the Committee on the "Efficient College," has consented to tabulate the results of this phase of the survey.

Here again it is exceedingly fortunate that through the agency of the Council of Church Boards of Education and the Association of American Colleges a careful preliminary study of the American College had already been made and its results and recommendations generally agreed to by college men. While, of course, this study will now need significant amendment in some instances, it is certainly true that it serves as a basis for work which otherwise could not be carried on without extended preparation.

After these preliminary steps have been taken in the survey it is expected to make a more intensive study of the various educational agencies which seek to be admitted to the financial campaign. Special attention in these intensive studies will be given to general requirements No. 1 and No. 2 above, which raise the questions as to the efficiency of institutions in the production of Christian leaders and as to field and constituency. The survey department is now at work on a series of questions which it is hoped will be helpful in answering the question as to whether or not an agency is equipped for training of Christian leaders. Steps have already been taken also for a most intensive and thorough investigation of the financial control, methods of operation and resources, actual and potential, of institutions which may apply for admission.

It is the intention here not merely to make a study from a theoretical and academic standpoint of the equipment of institutions for the production of Christian leaders, but also to study the methods, morale and actual fruitfulness of institutions in this field. In addition to the question as to whether an institution is equipped to train Christian leaders a further question will be asked as to whether an institution is actually training these leaders. This, of course, will involve among other things the study of the present distribution of students during the last few years as regards their several vocational activities.

This more intensive survey will bring to light also the needs as to the distribution of institutions, what ones require reinforcement, what ones modifications for the greatest efficiency, and what possible additions and eliminations should be undertaken in the larger interests of Christian culture.

In some instances the Boards of Education affiliated with the Council of Church Boards have planned, or now have in progress, surveys covering features of their own work, as for instance, in the case of the Methodist Episcopal Board, which has appointed Dr. John W. Hancher as its survey secretary. Arrangements are now being perfected by which these denominational surveys will be co-ordinated with the Interchurch survey, the general and universal items of interest being taken over by the Interchurch survey, and the items peculiar to the denominations only included in the investigations of the separate Boards of Education.

By all these means it is hoped that unity may be given to the investigations and that unnecessary duplication may be avoided. The present plan is that soon after the opening of the new academic year, in October, 1919, a tentative and preliminary statement may be made regarding the results of the survey. From that time more intensive phases of the work will be carried forward.

